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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/089,011 05/02/98 SANSAL

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WASHINGTON DC 20005

EXAMINER

ALVAREZ, R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2162

DATE MAILED:

01/18/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/089,011

Applicant(s)
Bansal et al.

Examiner
RAQUEL ALVAREZ

Group Art Unit
2162



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 20, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-33 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9, 12-23 and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al.(5,400,020 hereinafter Jones) in view of McGaughey,III et al.(McGaughey et al).

In regards to claims 1, 17 and 30-32 Jones teaches a method for managing a scheduling system(Abstract). Receiving information about an appointment from a user (i.e. a bus schedule for each bus is programmed into the advance notification system as determined by the respective bus drivers(users))(col. 5, lines 30-45); receiving information about an attendee associated with the appointment, including attendee notification information (i.e. a student(attendees) list containing the student names, student telephone number, and time when the student should be called if there is any delays is kept in a database)(col. 9, lines 5-24); determining status information (i.e. if the bus is going to be late is determined by comparing the departure time to the

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scheduled departure time to calculate how behind schedule the bus is going to be)(col. 7, lines 4-11); automatically generating an attendee notification message using the attendee notification information based on the meeting status information(i.e. if the bus is going to be late the microprocessor notifies the base control unit(14) to enable a call to be made to those students)(col. 7, lines 4-32).

Jones does not specifically teach receiving a response to the attendee notification message from the attendee. Nevertheless, McGaughey teaches in figure 6B and col. 4, lines 34-39 allowing an attendee or invitee to respond to an invitation or meeting by allowing the attendee to accept or decline the invitation or meeting. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included receiving a response to the attendee notification message from the attendee because such a modification would provide an improved method for replying to meeting notices(in McGaughey, col. 4, lines 51-53).

With respect to claim 2, Jones further teaches automatically generating an attendee notification message when the status indication information indicates that the user will be late for the appointment(col. 7, lines 4-32).

With respect to claim 3, Jones further teaches that the attendee notification information is a telephone number and said step of generating is performed by generating an audio message(col. 4, lines 46-60).

Claim 4 further recites that the attendee notification is performed by generating an electronic mail message. Official notice is taken that is old and well known at the time of

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Applicant's invention to have replaced the telephone with e-mail message for notifying the attendee of changes of schedule because such a modification would provide another means of communication.

With respect to claim 5, Jones further teaches that the status information is received from a computer through a communication network (i.e. each of the vehicle computer unit(12) is installed in each of school buses 19, all which communicate with the single base station control unit(14). If there's changes in the schedule then control unit(12) sends a notification to computer(14) so that the notification process can start).

With respect to claims 6 and 7, Jones further teaches that the step of determining is based on information received from a wireless telephone through a communication network(col. 2, lines 40-56).

With respect to claim 8, Jones further teaches receiving user location information(i.e. The bus location at a particular time could then be compared with scheduled locations and scheduled times in order to determine whether the bus 19 is early or late and by what amount(col. 5, lines 65-, col. 6, lines 1-11); deciding if the user will be late for the appointment based on the appointment time information, the appointment location information, the user location information and time associated with the user location information (col. 2, lines 40-56; col. 3, lines 65-, col. 4, lines 1-27; col. 6, lines 27-68).

With respect to claim 9, Jones further teaches calculating a travel distance based on the appointment location information and the user location information(col. 7, lines 4-11); calculating

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a time of arrival based on the time associated with the user location information, the travel distance and a travel velocity(col. 5, lines 30-45); and comparing the calculated time of arrival with the appointment time information(col. 2, lines 40-56; col. 3, lines 65-, col. 4, lines 1-27; col. 6, lines 27-68).

With respect to claim 12, Jones further teaches that the steps of receiving can be performed from multiple access devices(i.e. the information can be received via a telephone or a computer)(see rejection to claims 5-7).

With respect to claim 13, Jones further teaches sending the attendee notification message to the attendee(col. 4, lines 28-60).

Claims 14 and 18-19 further recite that the response received back from the attendee changes information about the appointment. McGaughney teaches in Figure 6B that if the attendee or invitee rejects the meeting or invitation, the calendar or meeting is updated based on the attendee's response to the meeting or invitation. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have modified the system of Jones with the system of McGaughney which enables changing information about an appointment based on the attendee's response because such a modification would enable the invitee to have a saying on the meeting's plans.

With respect to claim 15, Jones further teaches comparing the calculated time of arrival with the appointment time information and a predetermined fixed period of time(Figures 4-7).

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Claims 16 and 29 differ from claims 14, 18 and 19 above in that it further recite that the scheduling unit is coupled to the scheduler database. Jones is silent as to the scheduling unit being coupled to the scheduler database. Official notice is taken that is old and well known in the computer related arts to have units coupled to each other in joining or linking the units together in order to provide easier and speedier communication between the units. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included coupling the scheduler unit to the scheduler database to obtain the above mentioned advantages.

With respect to claim 20, Jones further teaches calculating a travel distance based on the appointment location information and the user location information(col. 7, lines 4-11); calculating a time of arrival based on the time associated with the user location information, the travel distance and a travel velocity(col. 5, lines 30-45); and comparing the calculated time of arrival with the appointment time information(col. 2, lines 40-56; col. 3, lines 65-, col. 4, lines 1-27; col. 6, lines 27-68).

With respect to claim 21, Jones further teaches that the user location information is generated by a global positioning satellite receiver (col. 6, lines 1-11).

Claim 22 further recites that the location information is calculated from an automatic identification number. Official notice is taken that is old and well known to use caller ID to automatically identify the location that the person is calling from. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included

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calculating the location information from a device such as caller ID because such a modification would save time by identify the location of the caller without the need to interchange much information.

With respect to claim 23, Jones further teaches that the location information is received through a communication network (i.e. each of the vehicle computer unit(12) is installed in each of school buses 19, all which communicate with the single base station control unit(14). If there's changes in the schedule then control unit(12) sends a notification to computer(14) so that the notification process can start).

With respect to claim 33, McGaughey teaches that the response from the attendee can be received by e-mail. it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included sending the response by e-mail because such a modification would allow for faster receipt of the response.

3. Claims 10-11 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Tognazzini(5,790,974 hereinafter Tognazzini).

With respect to claims 10 and 24, Jones further teaches adjusting the travel distance based on the appointment location information, the user location information(col. 5, lines 30-, col. 7, lines 1-32). Jones does not specifically teach receiving map information from a database and

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adjusting the travel distance based on the mapping information. On the other hand, Tognazzini teaches receiving map information from a mapping database to adjust travel distance (Figures 4B-4C). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included adjusting the travel distance based on the mapping information because such a modification would provide optimal travel route to the use (in Tognazzini col. 2, lines 38-, col. 3, lines 1-2).

Claims 11, 25-27 further recites receiving environment information wherein the environment information is weather and traffic information and adjusting the travel velocity based on that information. The combination of Jones and Tognazzini teaches adjusting the travel velocity based on the traffic information (in Tognazzini, col. 14, lines 62-, col. 15, lines 1-2). The combination of Jones and Tognazzini do not specifically teach that the adjusting of the travel velocity is based on weather information. Official notice is taken that is old and well known in the arts to adjust one's travel velocity in bad weather to decrease the risks of accidents. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the traffic information with the weather information to obtain the above mentioned advantages.

Claim 28 further recites that the environment information is airline information. The combination of Jones and Tognazzini teaches adjusting the travel velocity based on the traffic information (in Tognazzini, col. 14, lines 62-, col. 15, lines 1-2). The combination of Jones and Tognazzini do not specifically teach that the adjusting of the travel velocity is based on airline information. Official notice is taken that is old and well known in the arts to adjust one's travel

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velocity(speed) if there's any delays in the airlines because by the airline being delayed the whole traveling process of an individual would be delayed as a consequence. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the speed of traveling if there's notification that there's any delays in the airlines that he or she is traveling because such a modification would enable the person to plan ahead.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Points Of Contact

6. Any inquiry concerning this communications from the examiner should be directed to Raquel Alvarez whose telephone number is (703) 305-0456. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM. To 5:00 PM.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, The examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 305-0040.

January 12, 2001


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